

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

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SUBJECT: BOMBAY HIGH DEVELOPMENTS

REF: NEW DELHI 6061

1. RECENT INDIAN PRESS GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO THE SCHEDULED COMPLETION OF THE BOMBAY HIGH (BH) SUBSEA 203-KM PIPELINES (30 INCH CRUDE AND 26 INCH GAS). THE CONTRACT FOR LAYING THESE LINES WAS AWARDED TO BROWN AND ROOT (US) IN OCTOBER 1977.

2. ASSOCIATED GAS FROM THE OFFSHORE BEGAN FLOWING ON JUNE 10 AND CRUDE OIL ON JUNE 13 MARKING COMPLETION OF PHASE IIIA OF THE BH PROJECT. WITH THESE LINES IN OPERATION OIL AND NATURAL GAS COMMISSION (ONGC) NOW HAS YEAR ROUND ACCESS TO THE CRUDE AND GAS RESERVES OF BH AND CAN MOVE AHEAD WITH PLANS TO EXPLOIT THE FULL POTENTIAL
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OF THE BH AND NEARBY STRUCTURES.

3. UNTIL CONSTRUCTION OF A GAS FRACTIONATION PLANT PERHAPS IN TWO YEARS TIME, MAJOR CONSUMERS OF THE GAS AT PRESENT AROUND 1.1 MILLION CUBIC METERS PER DAY, WILL BE THE TROMBAY FERTILIZER PLANT AND TATA'S THERMAL POWER PLANT IN THE BOMBAY AREA. BHARAT PETROLEUM REFINERY IS PRESENTLY

RECIPIENT OF MOST OF THE BH CRUDE ALTHOUGH THE COCHIN AND VISAKHAPATNAM REFINERIES ARE ALSO PROCESSING SOME.

4. UNDER PHASE IIIB GAS FRACTIONATION AND CRUDE STABILIZATION PLANTS ARE TO BE SET UP AT URAN, BUT ARE UNLIKELY TO BE OPERATIONAL BEFORE 1980. TWO WELL PLATFORMS, FLARE JACKET AND A PRODUCTION PLATFORM ARE SCHEDULED FOR THE BASSEIN NORTH AND ONE PLATFORM FOR BASSEIN SOUTH STRUCTURE. THREE WELL PLATFORMS UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT MAZAGAON DOCKS PLUS A PRODUCTION PLATFORM ARE ALSO TO BE ADDED TO BH DURING THIS PHASE.

5. UPON COMPLETION OF PHASE III B FISCAL YEAREND MARCH 1980, BASSEIN NORTH FIELD IS TO ADD 20,000 B/D CRUDE AND ABOUT 400,000 CUBIC METERS ASSOCIATED GAS PER DAY WHILE 4.0 MILLION CUBIC METERS OF NATURAL GAS DAILY ARE ANTICIPATED FROM BASSEIN SOUTH. ABOUT 60,000 B/D CRUDE AND CLOSE TO ONE MILLION CUBIC METER GAS DAILY ARE ALSO TO COME FROM BH.

6. ACCORDING TO THE NEW DELHI FINANCIAL EXPRESS OF JUNE 22, 1978, COUNTRY'S TOTAL RECOVERABLE RESERVES OF CRUDE OIL ARE ESTIMATED AT 437 MILLION MT. THE PRESENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM STRESSES NEED FOR BUILDING ADDITIONAL RESERVES THROUGH EXPLORATION BOTH OFFSHORE AND ONSHORE. ONGC HOPES TO ADD 100 MILLION MT TO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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RECOVERABLE RESERVES (50 PERCENT ONSHORE, 50 PERCENT OFFSHORE) BY END PLAN PERIOD 1982-83.

7. COMMENT, DESPITE THE INCREASED POTENTIAL FOR OFFSHORE CRUDE PRODUCTION UPTO 12.5 MILLION MT BY 1982-83 FROM THE BH, BASSEIN AND B38 STRUCTURES, IMPORTS ARE EXPECTED TO INCREASE FROM ABOUT 15 MILLION MT IN 1978-79 TO AROUND 18 MILLION BY 1982-83 AS A RESULT OF PROPOSED CONSERVATION MEASURES TO RESTRICT OFFSHORE PRODUCTION TO 9 MILLION MT. COMBINED WITH ONSHORE PRODUCTION OF 9 MILLION MT, INDIA'S TOTAL PRODUCTION WOULD COME TO AROUND 18 MILLION MT OR ROUGHLY 50 PERCENT OF THE COUNTRY'S CRUDE REQUIREMENTS BY 1982-83. BY THEN, TOTAL DEMAND FOR PETROLEUM PRODUCTS IS ESTIMATED AT 36 MILLION MT. ASSUMING A REFINERY LOSS OF ABOUT 7 PERCENT, PRODUCT AVAILABILITY WOULD BE 33 MILLION MT REQUIRING 3 MILLION MT PRODUCT IMPORTS AS WELL. FOR CURRENT YEAR 1978-79 CRUDE PRODUCTION IS PEGGED AT ABOUT 13 MILLION MT VERSUS PRODUCT REQUIREMENTS AT 28 MILLION MT. IN SUM, IT APPEARS INDIA'S DEPENDENCE UPON POL IMPORTS WILL CONTINUE INDEFINITELY. BLOOD

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